

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01
VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /092 W
-----311626Z 097989 /46

R 311522Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1266
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09462

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF VN TH CB LA FR
SUBJ: FRENCH RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 063652, (B) STATE 068806, (C) PARIS 5375
(D) BANGKOK 6674

1. CONGEN AND EMBOFF SAW CHAYET, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENTIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, MARCH 29. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (PARA 8, REF C) AND EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS NOTED (REF D), THE FRENCH HAVE NO PLANS CURRENTLY TO CHANGE THEIR PROGRAM OF TAKING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY FROM THAILAND. CHAYET SAID THAT THEY EXPECT REFUGEES TO KEEP COMING TO FRANCE AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 1,000 PER MONTH. AS FOR THE DURATION OF THIS PROGRAM, HE SAID THEY WERE NOT TRYING AT THIS POINT TO LOOK TOO FAR INTO THE FUTURE. THEIR BUDGETARY AND OTHER PLANNING COVERED TO THE END OF THIS YEAR, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT AS REFUGEES WERE TAKEN OUT OF SOUTHEAST

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ASIA, NEW REFUGEES WERE ARRIVING. HE HAD NOTED THAT THE REFUGEE POPULATION OF THAILAND HAD BEEN AT 80,000, AND DESPITE ALL OF THE DEPARTURES THE FIGURE WAS STILL ABOUT 80,000. WHILE HE COULD SEE NO GROUNDS FOR ANY CUT OFF IN THEIR ADMISSION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, HE WAS AWARE THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE IT WOULD BECOME DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING TO TAKE THESE REFUGEES. IN

PARTICULAR, THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WILL PROBABLY OBJECT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A PROGRAM FOR WHICH THERE IS NO END IN SIGHT. CHAYET CONCLUDED THAT THE FRENCH PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE, THEREFORE, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE BUT EVENTUALLY THERE WOULD BE AN END.

2. CHAYET SAID THAT THE PROGRAM FOR THE TAI DAM HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN NOT ONLY SEPARATE FROM THE OTHER PROGRAMS, BUT THE TAI DAM DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE 1,000 PER MONTH FIGURE. NOW THE TAI DAM COME UNDER THE OVERALL CEILING. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE HMONG IN THAILAND. IT IS CURRENTLY DESIGNED FOR A PILOT GROUP OF SOME 50 FAMILIES, MAKING FOR A TOTAL OF 350-400 PERSONS; THEY WILL NOT FALL UNDER THE 1,000 PER MONTH QUOTA. AS FOR THE CAMBODIANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM (PARA 7, REF C), A SMALL NUMBER CAME OUT DURING FEBRUARY, BUT THERE WERE NONE ON THE MOST RECENT FLIGHT. THE FRENCH HAVE APPROVED VISAS FOR SOME 600 AND HAVE ON FILE REQUESTS FOR VISAS FOR 2-3,000 MORE KHMER. DESPITE THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SRV, THE FRENCH WERE STILL NOT CLEAR JUST WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE SINCE IT APPEARED HANOI WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM PHNOM PENH TO PERMIT ONLY CAMBODIANS WITH SOME CHINESE OR OTHER NATIONALITY CLAIM TO LEAVE VIETNAM. CHAYET THOUGHT THAT HANOI WOULD EVENTUALLY WORK OUT SOME WAY TO LET SOME OF THE CAMBODIANS GO SINCE THEY HAD NO INTEREST IN KEEPING THEM IN VIETNAM.

3. AS FOR THE FRENCH REPATRIATION PROGRAM, IT ALSO IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUING AT ITS USUAL PACE. THE FRENCH HOPE TO KEEP UP THE FLIGHTS UNTIL NOVEMBER TO TAKE CARE OF THIS PROGRAM AS WELL AS OTHERS WHO ARE LEAVING SAIGON.

4. THE FRENCH HAS FOUND THAT ONE OF THEIR PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WAS THE CHINESE. THE GOF HAD FELT THAT SINO-VIETNAMESE, SINO-CAMBODIANS AND SINO-LAO WERE LEGITIMATE REFUGEES, AND HAD EVEN CONSIDERED CHINESE WHO HAD BEEN RESIDENT IN INDOCHINA FOR GENERATIONS TO QUALIFY UNDER THE FRENCH PROGRAM. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, CHINESE FROM THAILAND AND EVEN FROM TAIWAN HAD BEEN MAKING USE OF FALSE DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER TO QUALIFY UNDER THE FRENCH PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 09462

(EVEN SOME THAI HAD ENTERED AS INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.)
THE FRENCH HAD TURNED BACK A LARGE NUMBER AND HAD
INTENSIFIED THEIR SCRUTINY OF ALL DOCUMENTATION IN
ORDER TO STOP SUCH ABUSES. THEY HAD FINALLY DECIDED,
HOWEVER, TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ADMIT
A SMALL NUMBER OF CHINESE OUTSIDE THE INDOCHINESE
REFUGEE PROGRAM. MANY FRENCH WERE LEARY OF
THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN ASSIMILATING
CHINESE, BUT THEY WOULD PROBABLY WORK OUT SOMETHING IN
THE FUTURE.

5. TO ASSIST IN SELECTING THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES
ADMITTED TO FRANCE, THE PRIVATE COMMITTEE (COMITE
NATIONAL D'ENTRE AIDE FRANCO-VIETNAMIEN, FRANCO-LAO,
FRANCO-CAMBODGIEN) HAS SENT TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO
THAILAND WHO VISIT THE CAMPS AND SPEAK WITH THOSE
INTERESTED IN RESETTLING HERE. CHAYET ADMITTED THERE
WAS OCCASIONALLY SOME FRICTION BETWEEN THE PRIVATE
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ORGANIZATIONS WHO WERE "ALL HEART" AND THE FRENCH
OFFICIALS WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
PROGRAM, AS THE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WERE NOT. THE

PRINCIPAL BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM WAS THAT IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE RECEPTION
CENTERS AND THE "CAMPS" IN WHICH MOST OF THE INCOMING
REFUGEES SPENT UP TO SIX MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO THIS
VERY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT, THERE WERE OTHER EXPENSES
COMING OUT OF OTHER BUDGETS SO THAT THE TOTAL COST OF
THE PROGRAM WAS NOT EASY TO ARRIVE AT. NONETHELESS THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE EXTRA EXPENSES
FOR MEDICAL CARE, SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITIES,
SUBSIDIES FOR LOW COST HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE PAYMENTS,
ETC., EXPENSES WHICH WERE ALL ABOVE THE PRINCIPAL
BUDGET FOR REFUGEES. HENCE THERE WAS A PART OF THE
FRENCH ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD A VESTED INTEREST IN
SEEING THE INDOCHINESE PROGRAM COME TO A HALT.
GAMMON

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